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Please amend claim 47 as follows:

47. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the phosphate backbone modification [occurs at the 3' end of the nucleic acid] is selected from the group consisting of a phosphorothioate and a phosphorodithioate modification.

Please add the following new claims:

54. (New) A method for redirecting a subject's immune response from a Th2 to a Th1 comprising the step of administering to the subject an immunostimulatory nucleic acid, having the following formula:



wherein C is unmethylated, wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 are nucleotides, and wherein the nucleic acid backbone includes a phosphate backbone modification.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the nucleic acid is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, transdermal, and subcutaneous.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered in a formulation selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid delivery complex, a liposome, a virosome, and a nanoparticle.

12. 57. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral, transdermal, and subcutaneous.

13. 58. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid is delivered in a formulation selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid delivery complex, a liposome, a virosome, and a nanoparticle.